(c) Does not arise in veiw of (a) and (b) above.

Projects for agricultural research and education

1189. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two projects for Agriculture research and education in agricultural science have been approved at a cost of Rs. 1190 crores to give strong impetus to agricultural research;

(b) if so, whether six-year project involving a $ 200 million credit line from World Bank would be implemented from 1st July, 2006;

(c) whether Government have approved Rs. 200 crores more over and above Rs. 720 crores allocated for improving agricultural eduation for remaining period fo the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, to what extent these projects would help in production, consumption system and achieving other objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Agricultural Innovation Project is approved at a cost of approximately Rs. 1190 crores. For strengthening agricultural education, an additional Rs. 200 crores is approved.

(b) The national Agricultural Innovation Project supported with US $ 200 million credit from the World Bank is being implemented from July, 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the National Agricultural Innovation Project will contribute to, (a) attaining excellence in science by strengthening basic and stratgic research in agricultral sciences, (b) higher income through research on production to consumption system and (c) poverty alleviation through research on sustainable rural livelihood improvement. The additional outlay on agriculture education will contribute to strengthening agricultural universities for improved educational planning, curriculum development and delivery, faculty skill up-gradation, improved classroom, laboratory , field, hostel and other educational, experimental and instructional facilities niche area development, experiential learning etc.